

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0017] at page 10, line 10 with the following :

[0017] If the user is not found at another port in block 222, the BBSM advances to the next active session in block 230 in the case where there may be some time delay between disassociating from the source port and re-associating with the destination port. The BBSM periodically searches for the user until the port hop timer expires at block 232. If, after repeatedly searching for the user until the port hop timer expires, the BBSM still has not detected the user, then the BBSM deactivates the session in the transition from block 232 to block 226. After the BBSM reports the session duration in block 228, the BBSM advances ~~it query~~ to the next active session in block 230 and loops back to the decision block 202. In the case that the user does not appear on any network element after the expiration of the port hop timer, the session duration may not include time spent searching for the user.

Please replace paragraph [0021] at page 12, line 18 with the following:

[0021] FIG. 3 illustrates a block diagram of a device for maintaining an active session for a user changing ports according to a specific embodiment of the present invention. A device 302, more particularly, a network connectivity device, comprises a first memory 304, a second memory 306, and a verifier 308. The first memory 304 stores a list of ports, for example, Port_Map Table 1004 as illustrated in FIG. 10. The second memory 306 stores a list of active sessions, for example, Port_State Table 1006 as illustrated in FIG. 10. Each active session identifies a port on which on a user is connected. In addition, each session comprises several variables such as the MAC address of the user, the IP address, and port policy. Other variables may also be included. An optional third memory 307 may store a list of sites, for example, Sites

Table 1008 as illustrated in FIG. 10. The verifier 308 may be a software that communicates with the first memory 304, the second memory 306, and optionally the third memory 307. The verifier 308 periodically checks each active session in the list of active sessions provided by the second memory 306. If the port associated with a session indicates that the session is no longer active, the verifier 308 searches all other ports to determine a new location for the user. If the user is identified on another port (and the port hop is allowed), the verifier 308 updates the variables of the active session in the second memory 306 to record the new port location and to record the port hop event. In this case, the verifier 308 does not require the user to re-authenticate, making the port hop seamless for the user. If the verifier 308 does not find the user on the other ports, the verifier 308 repeats the search on the other ports until a configurable delay expires. In particular, the configurable delay may be an adjustable timer. At the expiration of such configurable delay, the verifier 308 deactivates the user's session and updates the second memory 306 to ~~represents~~ represent the session deactivation.

Please replace paragraph [0037] at page 17, line 6 with the following:

[0037] The CEtherStack::AddPortMap function 432, CEtherStack::AddPortMapEntry function 434, and CEtherStack::AddDefaultPortMap function 436 may add a port hop flag to the Port_Map table [[604,]] 1004, which is also illustrated in FIG. 3 as the first memory 304.

Please replace paragraph [0039] at page 17, lines 12 and 15 with the following:

[0039] The PortRecordSet class 438 and PortStateUtil class 440 provide access to the Port_State table [[606,]] 1006, which is also illustrated in FIG. 3 as the second memory 306. The PortMapRecordset class 442 and the PortMapUtil class 444, which together represent the first

memory 304, are modified for the new EnablePortHop flag. The SitesRecordSet function 446 provides an additional column to the Sites table [[608,]] 1008, which is illustrated in FIG. 3 as the third memory 307, to regulate the duration of the port hop timer.

Please replace paragraph [0048] at page 20, line 14 with the following:

[0048] Thus, when a session hops ports, there are two ports involved: the source port and the destination port. Each port stores a port hop flag in the Port_Map table [[604,]] 1004, indicating if the port, when acting as a source port, allows a session to hop from the port to another port. When the administrator generates the port map page 514 using WEBconfig 510, the port hop flag is set for all ports. To individually enable or disable ports, the administrator will use the Port Control web application, accessible through the BBSM Dashboard 502 in the Port Control Web page 516.